

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 EB-11 IGA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EA-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 SCI-06 AGR-20 HEW-08 CU-04 SPM-01 DRC-01 /200 W

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R 241250Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7008

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 5160

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CENTO, EAID, IR

SUBJ: CENTO'S FUTURE ECONOMIC PROGRAM

REF: A) STATE 130273 B) TEHRAN 8908, DEC 18, 73

1. AS NOTED IN REF B, CURRENT U.S. AID PRIORITY PROGRAMS OF AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES, AND HEALTH/FAMILY PLANNING ARE CONSISTENT WITH PRIORITIES OF IRANIAN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING. EMBASSY BELIEVES GOI WOULD BE WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH U.S. DESIRE TO SELECT ONE OF THESE TOPICS AS FIELD OF SPECIAL INTEREST FOR DISCUSSION AT FIRST MEETING OF POLICY LEVEL OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. GOI ALSO WOULD PROBABLY FAVOR GENERAL TOPIC ON SCIENCE POLICY GOALS AND SUPPORT OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

2. COMMENT: AS IS WELL KNOWN, IRAN CONTEMPLATES EARNING MORE FOREIGN EXCHANGE THIS YEAR THAN IT WILL BE ABLE TO UTILIZE. WHILE GOI WOULD WELCOME INCREASED REGIONAL COOPERATION IN DEVELOPMENT OF ITS PRIORITY INDUSTRIES SUCH AS STEEL AND PETROCHEMICALS, IT IS AWARE OTHER REGIONAL MEMBERS HAVE
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LITTLE TO OFFER ITS INDUSTRIALIZATION PROGRAM AND THAT

MORE CAN PROBABLY BE ACCOMPLISHED FROM WHICH IRAN LIKELY TO BENEFIT BY CONCENTRATION ON SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE RELATED SUBJECT.

WITH RESPECT TO IDEA OF A MEETING OF HIGH LEVEL POLICY OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST, WE WOULD NOTE THAT IRAN HAS BEEN ABSOLUTELY INUNDATED WITH HIGH LEVEL VISITORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD WANTING TO QTE DISCUSS MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST UNQTE AND SENIOR PEOPLE FIND LITTLE TIME TO DO MUCH OF ANYTHING ELSE. THERE IS EVERY PROSPECT THAT THIS WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE CASE INCLUDING VISITS FROM USG OFFICIALS INTENT ON PURSUING OUR OWN BILATERAL INTERESTS. THE QUESTION ARISES THEREFORE WHETHER EIGHER USG OR IRAN WILL BE PREPARED TO GIVE CENTO MATTERS THE HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION BOTH SIDES MIGHT WISH UNDER MORE NORMAL AND LESS HECTIC CIRCUMSTANCES.

HELMS

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